



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SUMMER EDITION JULY 2016



The Chairman's Report

The 50th Anniversary celebrations are now complete.

At the Thursday meeting Tony and Graeme talked about the history of the Society and of Thatcham. Then afterwards, everyone was presented with a celebration mug and the society history booklet. Thanks to all who came and to Ann our resident cake maker.

The buffet lunch held at the Bluecoat School was very well attended and thanks to all who brought a few sheets to show. It made a good display and showed our diverse collecting interests. Our invited guest speaker – Thomas Plant – proved to be a most entertaining and amusing speaker – thank you Thomas.

Thanks also to our president, John Baron, who travelled some distance to be with us and who congratulated the society on behalf of A.B.P.S.

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Year 50 Issue 133

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Graeme, Barney, Thomas Plant and John Baron
with Ann and the cake.

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anything in this newsletter
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Photo Gallery



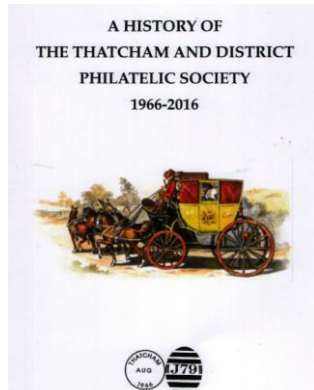
Malcolm and a small sample of his treasures



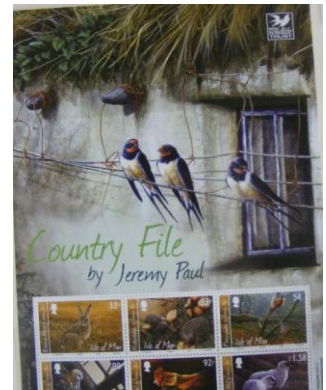
Graeme and the Bluecoat School



Tony with his display and the brilliant cover design



The Troll Princess



All singing away



Robin Cassell and some of his wonderful 'Mulready' material – what a display!



30th Anniversary of the first Machin



The Queen's Golden Jubilee



Underground map of the route of Coronation

PAST EVENTS

Monday 4th April – Malcolm Entertains

Malcolm talked about the Berlin military train that ran from Charlottenburg in East Berlin to Brunswick and showed some travel documents issued to him and his family. Lots of things to see and excellent dining facilities. Then sheets re Marienborn i/p and o/p controls and a set of cutlery that he had `pinched` from the train ! Then he showed `Dumb Cancellations` - hand-stamps used on military letters – no postmarks to show where letter was sent from so as to confuse the enemy – just the recipient address.

The mini auction at half time only realised 4 items sold from 22 lots.

For part two we saw lots of `Malcolm`s Treasures`. He has a fetish for old typewriters and brought several old miniature ones and some used by children. Then a miniature bugle, and irons of several types plus lamps and cameras. Then a very expensive Beswick children`s tea service, a field telephone set, a miniature telephone exchange, some small petrol cans and lots of `bibs and bobs`. What a collection – where does he put it all ?

Thursday 21st April – The Anniversary Evening

There were 31 people present for this evening which was in several parts.

Tony Jordan – showed us lots of sheets and FDC`s about mail coaches and horses then spoke about the pictures on the front of the mug and brochure that he had designed for us. It was the splendid original Bath Mail coach which ran on August 2nd 1784. John Palmer had hired the coach from Fromont of the Kings Head in Thatcham. Tony then talked about the early days of coaching from London to Bath via Woolhampton, Thatcham and Newbury. All so very interesting and full of Tony`s typical humour.

Then **Graeme Stewart** took over to show lots of sheets showing the history and pictures of Thatcham and an 1835 cover carried on the mail coach to Newbury. Then he showed a sequence of pictures of Thatcham covering the road from east to west - Francis Baily, Harts hill, The Bluecoat School built in 1303 as an overflow for St Mary`s church, the thatched cottages (3 of which have been re-thatched by our chairman Barney), the old Police Station, Chapel Street, the famous toilet block in the Broadway and so on west past the Kings Head, the Memorial Hall and the 6 pairs of cottages along the A4 that were called `the Twelve Apostles`. A wonderful collection of pictures and postcards to show the history and scenic panorama of Thatcham.

At half time there was tea and coffee with excellent cakes brought by Ann.

For part 2 our chairman **Barney Bardsley** gave a talk about the history of the society and events that have taken place since 1966 onwards – the Monday meetings started in 1996 and the first newsletters in 1997 that sold for 2d each. Barney spoke about the brochure and that the data it contains is a wealth of information that he compiled from the archives and minutes of meetings. A lot of work with such a great outcome.

Then we all charged our wine glasses for a toast to the society and, to finish off, the souvenir brochures and mugs were given out as mementoes of the anniversary.

Monday 9th May and the theme was `Art and Artists`. 18 members were present.

Malcolm Hoskins started the afternoon with a lot of French `rubbish` from around the world - lovely pictures on the stamps of various artists and designs. Very nice.

Tony Jordan followed on with items from around Europe by the engraver Slania and some famous stamps engraved by him of the Swedish mythical stories and the superb illustrations by John Bauer of the fairy tales

A joint effort by **Ian and Juliet Keel** of PHQ cards and matching stamps of various animals, scenes and figurines.

Then **Mike Smith** showed one sheet of an illustrated cover and stamps of the cave art of Bhotswana.

To finish the first half **Tony Hillier** showed Belgian and Flemish issues of art and design stamps, covers and mini-sheets designed by the Brugue school of artists and Breugel illustrations. Then some Baroque pictures on stamps, Reubens paintings and some by his pupil Van Dyke. All very nice.

There was a mini auction at half time and 14 from 20 were sold.

Neil Hatton started the second half with very nice art and artists on postcards printed in Germany before WW1. Then some Lucy Atwell cards and two lovely oil paintings of flowers and Devon.

Dave Tanner was next and he showed sets of French and Laotian art stamps, some German impressionist issues and engraved stamps and finished off with a selection artistic issues from around the world.

Bob Paterson then showed a few sheets of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens by the artists who illustrated his novels and character.

Mike Gurr showed sheets of Isle of Man issues showing views and Europa issues by various artists and then some watercolours and country life paintings.

To finish off the afternoon **Martin Farr** displayed sheets of stamps, illustrations and postcards of the Mogao Grottos on the Silk Road. The paintings and figures were created over many centuries and were 'lost' until the 19th century. These, with the thousands of manuscripts, are now part of the world Heritage site at last.

Thursday 19th May - 'Illustrated Envelopes' with Robin Cassell.

There were 24 members present

Robin is a regular Westbex dealer who has amassed a wonderful collection.

To start off he showed caricatures and cartoonists covers from the 1840's. Lots of beautiful Mulready covers by Royal Academy artists, John Leech designs and a lovely Lion design cover from May 1840. Then he showed many 'unfolded' Mulready covers to show the rear designs as well as the main ones – these showed a great variety of caricatures and scenes. These were followed by sheets of hand-coloured envelopes with some very rare forgeries as well. Then Robin showed the first Christmas card as an envelope and many more of the same style by other artists especially Fores and also Ackerman who had his own studio.

Robin commenced part two with several sheets of covers from 1840-43 by the French designer Morriset who create them in the classic Mulready style. Then William Spooner (shop in the Strand) caricature stamps of 1900. Robin then said that every cover artist either copied or forged each other's designs! These were followed by many more covers and data sheets and a large display of pictorial envelopes and styles from the 1840's

and 50's with many themes covered such as temperance, politics, cities and advertising designs, the 1890 Jubilee and some superannuated Politicians! What a wonderful evening we had with such a wealth of fabulous material.

Monday 6th June – Queen Elizabeth and we had just 14 members on a hot afternoon.

Ian Keel started the afternoon by showing six sheets of QEII covers and a nice sheet of `10p` variations of the machins.

Then **Dave Tanner** showed lots of commonwealth Royal events and Silver Wedding issues from all around the world and then several covers and sheets of stamps of various QEII issues plus a whole album of issues that was on sale for £15 – It was soon sold!

Malcolm Hoskins put up lots of machins of QEII issues and Jubilee sheets. Then a `Long to reign over us` sheet and finished with a talk about machin variations.

Bob Paterson showed QEII issues from the commonwealth – Xmas Island, Fiji, Cyprus, Sarawak and so on plus several sheets of `silhouettes` issues, Falkland `Boat` issues and ended with some Virgin Island fish stamps.

John Taylor started part 2 with some 1980`s machin and regional issues and Hi values.

Then **Graeme Stewart** showed an underground map from 1953 showing the route of the Coronation, some Silver Jubilee sheets and a selection of QEII post boxes (what else!) from around the U.K.

Thursday 16th June – Display 6 sheets or pay a 50p fine ! with just 16 members.

Malcolm Hoskins showed us quite a lot of postcards of the `Manneken Pis` in Brussels, `erected` in 1618, showing the `water works` and the various costumes that he wore.

Martin Farr put up some of Hokusai`s 36 views of Mt Fuji and some Japanese prints.

Juliet Keel showed a lovely selection of Red Cross cards and issues from WWI.

John Tingey then displayed lots of A3 sheets re Reginald Bray – his `chain` and ` `reversed address` postcards, crochet items sent via the post and addresses in pictures that all managed to get there.

Ian Keel showed a selection old postcards made out of various materials such as leather, cork, wood, copper and plastic with a nice one from silver birch bark!

Then **Tony Jordan** showed a Punch cartoon and some lovely postcards by Anders of `Huntin`, shootin` and fishin` and some nice cards of street urchins.

Graeme Stewart started part 2 with stamps, covers and cards from Ross Dependency and also pictures of ones that he can't afford. Then some WWI covers from Newbury.

Francis Connolly showed us flaws and variations in Q.V and Ed.VII early issues.

Barney Bardsley spoke about industrial archaeology re the Kennet and Avon Canal that joined Newbury to Bath in 1810 and showed us lots of information sheets about the company, the set-up and the shareholders.

Dave Tanner then showed a fine collection of Iranian sheets from the 1979 revolution and onwards, celebrating the start of the Republic.

To finish off a good evening **Alan Cross** showed large sheets of Australian postage dues, O.S. cancellations of the Kangaroo issues and watermark and die variations.

The Anniversary Page



On Saturday the 14th of May celebrating our 50th year,
 We held an anniversary lunch with history and talks to hear.
 Our members and their partners came in to join the meet,
 With a lovely buffet all laid out for all of us to eat.
 Lovely cakes baked by Viv and Ann were spread about to take,
 Fruit, coffee and creamy sponges and a tiered anniversary cake.
 Tony served up all the wine in glasses that were wide,
 To whet one`s whistle so to speak with juices on the side.
 When everyone had had their fill with many back for more,
 Was time for talks and speeches and Graeme took the floor.
 He told the history of the Bluecoat School from its earliest inception,
 That quite recently had been renovated for events like our reception.
 Its history was shown behind on pictures and research data,
 And if you had not seen then you could come and view them later.
 Then chairman Barney Bardsley gave brief history of the Society,
 From its very first year in 1966 to its present notoriety.
 The full story was in the booklet and all of us should now have one,
 With a mug as well for a souvenir all designed by Tony – well done!
 Then our President John Baron proposed a toast to the Society,
 So all of us raised our glasses and drank with some propriety.
 Our guest speaker was introduced to us who was seated at the rear,
 Thomas Plant from S.A.S. Greenham who spoke of his career.
 How he started in his early days as a junior auctioneer,
 Who banged his gavel, often hard, to make the bidders hear.
 And how he joined the business to deal in ceramics and silver,
 To now being the head of the company and the services they deliver.
 He said many of his early estimates were 30 to £50 price core,
 But got it wrong quite often when items sold for much more.
 One item was a Persian carpet with a reasonable reserve price to sell,
 With lots of Net. and phone bidders and some sealed bids as well.
 It sold for many thousands on the night much more than was expected,
 As there was an image within the design and hence the price selected.
 Thomas spoke of Bargain Hunt and Flog-It that brought him T.V. fame,
 And how the contestants were selected to produce a better game.
 So all in all a terrific speaker who entertained us all,
 And brought an air of jollity to the old Bluecoat School hall.
 Thank you Thomas.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk for lots of info about auctions almost everywhere

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

July 7 th	Giants of Music
July 28 th	Beatrix Potter
August 16 th	Landscape gardens
September 2 nd	The Great Fire of London
September 14 th	`Post and Go` Ladybirds
September 15 th	Agatha Christie
October 14 th	The Battle of Hastings

Refreshments Problems

An extra pair of hands is required at our meetings – especially the Monday meetings. Ian and Juliet cannot always guarantee to be available and Ann may not be able to come to all the meetings as well.

It really needs two people on a Thursday and perhaps maybe just one on a Monday to prepare, present and clear up afterwards.

Would you please speak to Ian and Juliet if you can help as required.

Thank you.

Future Programme and Events

Monday July 4th	The Jerry Wilson Cup competition, `Flowers` and a quiz
Thursday 21 st July	Visit from the Camberley Stamp Club
There is no Monday meeting in August	
Thursday 18th August	`Show, Tell and Sell` - Members to display
Saturday 20 th August	Stamp and Postcard Fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham
Monday 5 th September	To be arranged
14 th – 17 th September	Autumn Stampex , Islington, London
Thursday 15 th September	A.G.M., Social Evening and Mini Club Auction
Monday 3 rd October	To be arranged
Saturday 8 th October	33 rd Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall, Thatcham. Auction lots on view for the November Auction

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

ACCESSORIES

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Auction lots for the November auction can be submitted from July 1st.
Valuation forms and documents are on the society website

ARCHIVIST

We are still desperate for an archivist to look after the Society material accrued over the years.

If you feel that you could help then please contact the secretary Graeme Stewart.

THE PACKET CIRCUIT

Mike Gurr, for personal reasons, has decided to stop running the society packet circuit.

If anyone is prepared to take on this role then please let our chairman or secretary know.

Failing a volunteer, the packet circuit will have to close which would be a great pity.

VISITS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

In April, **Bob Paterson** was invited to the Farnham society and his thematic display was ‘2000 Years to Lift-Off’ - mans effort to reach the moon in fantasy, fiction and fact – ending with the Apollo Space Missions. His talk went down well and the audience were quite impressed as they had no idea there were so many Apollo missions.

In May both **Martin Farr** and **Graeme Stewart** also visited Farnham when Graeme showed his great display of Post-Boxes and spoke about their history, types and styles and locations. In part two Martin showed his full set of the Tokaido Road illustrations, cards and stamps that were instigated by Ieyasu Tokugawa in the 16th century.

Once again both speakers were very well appreciated.

For the future, **Martin Farr** and **Malcolm Hoskins** will be going to the Wokingham Society and probably **Graeme** and **Bob** as well and **Bob** will be going to Basingstoke.

Officers of the Club

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Archivist

WestBex Graeme and Martin

Publicity

Martin Farr